



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
Vernal Field Office

<http://www.blm.gov/utah/vernal>

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IN REPLY REFER TO:

3809
66358
(UT08300)

Oct. 14, 1998

Mr. Robert E. Covington
Hiko Bell Mining and Oil Company
P.O. Box 1845
Vernal, Utah 84078

Re: Hiko Bell project area under surface management case UTU
66358 (T.5S., R.24E., Sec. 6, W2NW Lot 13 SLB&M)

Mr. Covington:

A recent inspection of the Hiko Bell's project area on the Pebble Puppy #2 placer claim (T.5S., R.24E. Sec. 6) reveals that there has been no operations for about eight (8) years. The regulations require that at the earliest feasible time, the operator shall reclaim the project area (see map attached to letter of May 20, 1997). We believe that a significant number of years have transpired since the project area was last active and now reclamation must begin. I am asking you, within thirty days of receipt of this letter to submit to this office, in writing, your time schedule for the reclamation of the project area. Otherwise, a notice of noncompliance will be issued ordering such.

This is also to advise you that the main [unimproved] access road to the area has been washed-out about one-half mile east of your project area (T.5S., R.24E., Sec. 6 SESWNWSE SLB&M). Personnel from this office are to investigate the situation of maintenance of this roadway. If you must access the area in the foreseeable future and plan to repair the roadway, please contact us in advance.

If you have any questions, please contact myself or Peter Sokolosky.

Sincerely,

5/047/050

DOGM RECEIVED
VIA E-MAIL
10/14/98

Howard B. Cleavinger II
Assistant Field Manager
Mineral Resources

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bcc: reading file

surface management file UTU66358

3809 REPORT OF INSPECTION

Date: Oct. 2, 1998 Time: 10:00 am Location: T.6S. R.24E. Sec 6 W2NW of Lot 13

Operators present during inspection: None

Serial no. of notice: UTU 66358 Is the operation active? No

Description of operations (including access, reclamation, etc.): The area has been inactive since 4/13/90 (start of record of inspections in which no operations were noted as being conducted within the project area). The main (unimproved road) access has been washed out about .5 mi east of the project area - T.5S., R.24E., Sec. 6 SENSWNWSE (see I&E report with UTU66357 surface management file). Vernal Field Office Support Services Lead (Gary Hunter) is to have an equipment operator check out the road situation - road may be BLM maintained.

Is the operation in compliance with the notice on file and/or the stipulations of the approved plan? (if No describe deficiencies): Generally, yes. There has been no change to the project area since the 4/3/95 inspection by Richard Wilson nor since the last inspection on Oct. 20, 1997 - except for some more native vegetation growth and a certain amount of erosion. Since the area has now been inactive for about 7 years, the operator of record should be advised that the area is in need of reclamation under 43 CFR 3809.1-3(d)(2) unless a reasonable foreseeable development scenario is presented (to include a plan to monitor the inactive area, abate any problems with noxious weeds, and fence any excavations which could pose a hazard to humans or animals).

signature

print name/title

date

Inspector

Peter Sokolosky/Geologist

(accompanied by Wayne Stevens - Vernal FO Ranger)

Management

Howard Cleavinger/AFFMMR

Attachments: photographs (panorama from northeast part of project area); description is attached to the photographs

Distribution: original to surface management case file UTU66358
Copy - Tony Gallegos (UDOGM) - state file no. S/047/050 (via email)